DARTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

RAMSAY MILLAR.

1908.

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To the Darton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Report for year ending December 31st, 1908, on the sanitary condition of the Darton Urban District.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 306, compared with 296 in the previous year, an increase of 10. Of these births, 157 were males and 149 females. Out of the total, 15 were illegitimate. The birth-rate, on a population calculated at 9,350, was 32·7 per thousand, compared with 32·1 of the previous year, and an average of 36·1 for the last ten years. The birth-rate for England and Wales during 1908 was 26·5 per 1,000 of the population, so that the birth-rate not only shows an increase on the previous year's, but compares favourably with the general birth-rate of the country. The rate of illegitimate births per 100 infants born was 4·9, which is higher than usual.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 132, compared with 135 registered the previous year. The deaths from Diarrhœa increased from 1 to 8, and from Whooping Cough from 4 to 12. The Tubercular Diseases accounted for 9 deaths, compared with 4 the previous year. On the other hand, there were only two deaths from Measles, compared with 19 the previous year. The number of deaths from the various other diseases are very similar to those of the previous year, with the exception of Cancer mortality, which accounts for 8, compared with 4 of 1907. The death-rate works out at 14·1 per 1,000, against 14·6 for the year before, and an average of 14·9 for the last ten years. The death-rate for England and Wales during 1908 was 14·7.

The number of infants under one year that died was 38, against 42 of the year before, and 41 in 1906. The infantile mortality works out at 124 per 1,000 born, against 142 for 1907, and an average of 151·9 for the last ten years, a figure which shows marked improvement, but one which can easily be further lowered with increased care on the part of those in charge of them. The deaths occurring among infants were due mainly to infectious diseases like whooping cough, to bronchitis and broncho pneumonia, and to diarrhœa, these various diseases accounting for 29 deaths, most of which are preventable. Parents do not realise the importance of avoiding intercourse with houses and families where such so-called unavoidable children's diseases like measles and whooping cough exist, and the importance of at least postponing their incidence to as late a date as possible in the child's life.

Bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia in infants originate nearly always in a common cold contracted when some other person in the house suffers from one. Thus probably these diseases are due to direct infection ; and just as an adult contracting diarrhœa throws it off in a day or two as a rule, whereas the baby in like circumstances often succumbs, so when the adult contracts a cold he soon recovers, whereas the baby, not having acquired the resistance and immunity of the adult, develops as a sequel bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, often with fatal results. To prevent this the child should be kept from contact with anyone having a catarrh, from overheated rooms, warmly clothed, and judiciously exposed to the fresh air. The infantile mortality figure for England and Wales for 1908 was 121, so that the mortality here is above the average.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 births Register'd	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1898	7840	283	36·1	48	170	133	17·2		133	17·2
1899	7960	288	36·2	47	163	119	14·9		119	14·9
1900	7003	257	36·6	41	165	131	18·7		131	18·7
1901	7670	306	39·7	41	153	117	15·2		117	15·2
1902	7735	296	38·2	48	162	134	17·3		134	17·3
1903	7915	288	36·6	43	149	108	13·6		108	13·6
1904	8062	270	33·4	44	163	123	15·2		123	15·2
1905	8286	326	39·3	38	116	102	12·3		102	12·3
1906	8990	298	33·1	41	137	98	10·9	8	106	11·7
1907	9200	296	32·1	42	141	135	14·6	6	141	15·3
Averages for years 1898-1907	8066	291	36·1	43	151	120	14·9		121	15·5
1908	9350	306	32·7	39	127	116	12·4	16	132	14·1

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,358.

Total population at all ages 7,670
Number of inhabited houses ... ... 1,593 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house 4·8

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Measles.. ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	12	9	3	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including membranous croup	2	..	..	2	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Epidemic Influenza	4	..	..	..	1	1	2
Diarrhœa ..	8	6	1	..	..	..	1
Phthisis, (Pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	5	..	..	..	1	4	..
Other tuberculous diseases...	4	..	2	1	1	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease..	8	..	..	..	..	5	3
Bronchitis ..	20	10	2	..	1	1	6
Pneumonia ..	11	4	..	1	1	5	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Premature birth	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Heart diseases..	10	..	..	1	1	6	2
Accidents ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Suicides ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1
Congen'l. Defects	5	5	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	33	4	1	1	2	9	16
All causes ..	132	39	10	7	8	37	31

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from Stated Causes in Weeks and Months Under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	All Causes. Certified	All Causes. Uncertified	Inf. Dis Com. Whooping Cough	Diarrhœal Diseases. Diarrhœa, all forms	Diseases. Wasting Premature Birth	Diseases. Wasting Congenital Defects	Otheer Causes. Meningitis not Tuberculous	Otheer Causes. Bronchitis	Otheer Causes. Pneumonia	Otheer Causes. Other Causes	
Under 1 Week.			...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3
1-2 Weeks.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-3 Weeks.			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
3-4 Weeks.			...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
1-2 Months.			1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	4
2-3 Months.			1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	5
3-4 Months.			...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
4-5 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
5-6 Months.			2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
6-7 Months.			1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
7-8 Months.			1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
8-9 Months.			1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	4
9-10 Months.			2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	5
10-11 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
11-12 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	1
Total Deaths under One Year.	39		9	6	1	5	1	10	4	3	39

* Age not given.

Population Estimated to middle of 1908, 9,350.

Births in the Year { legitimate 291, illegitimate 15 } Deaths in the Year of { legitimate infants 36, illegitimate infants 3 }

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 132.

DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT IN 1908.

Kendray Hospital.

MONTH.	SEX.	AGE.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
Feb.	Male	6 years	Diptheria
May	Male	62 years	Enteric Fever

Beckett Hospital and Workhouse Infirmary.

Jan.	Male		Suicide
May	Male		Accident
Aug.	Female		Tubercular Peritonitis
—	Female		Senile Decay
May	—		Infantile Convulsions
Oct.	—		Cirrhosis of Liver
—	—		Cancer
Aug.	—		Cerebral Softening
Aug.	—		Nephritis
Nov.	—		Intestinal obstructions
March	—		Cirrhosis of Liver
April	—		Appendicitis

Doncaster Infirmary.

Nov.	Female		Bronchitis

West Riding Asylum.

Nov.	Male		Epilepsy

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of these reported during the year was 94, against 71 for 1907, and 58 in 1906. The distribution is as follows :—

	1908.	1907.
Diptheria	10	7
Erysipelas	5	15
Scarlet Fever	67	39
Enteric Fever	11	8
Puerperal Fever	1	2

Sixteen of the cases were removed to Hospital, viz. :— Four Diptheria, 11 Scarlet Fever, and one Enteric. The following table shows the distribution of the principal diseases in the different districts of the area :—

	Swithen	Darton	Mapplewell	Gawber	Higham & Barugh	Kexbro
Scarlet Fever.	3	3	45	11	4	1
Enteric do.	0	1	5	0	5	0
Diptheria	0	0	3	5	2	0

General Review.

Water Supply.—This has been ample throughout the year, and no complaints have been made as to its quality, except during flushing operations. No analysis has been made or required, and the action on lead is negligible. All the new houses are supplied on their erection.

Sewerage.—Some developments are still needed, especially at the new property at Darton Lane.

Sewage Disposal.—The Surveyor is giving increased attention to the treatment at the Sewage Works, with the result that the effluent is improving.

Bye-Laws.—No new ones have been made or adopted.

Adoptive Acts.—There are no Adoptive Acts in force.

Slaughter-Houses.—The number on the Register is eight, one license having lapsed during the year. Their condition is good, but one butcher was cautioned respecting the dirty condition of his premises. One seizure of diseased meat had been made and the carcase destroyed by order of a justice.

Cowsheds.—Thirty-two are in the district, some very clean, others only fairly so.

Infectious Diseases.—An order has been issued by the Local Government Board, dated 18th December, 1908, by which notification of tubercular disease among persons receiving medical relief is to be made to the Medical Officer of Health of the district. This is one step, if a small one, in the proper direction. It would be advisable that the disinfection of houses, where notifiable infectious disease has occurred, should be made practically compulsory. Disinfection of houses, where tuberculosis has occurred, is desirable and is encouraged.

Schools.—Water Closets are needed at Kexbro' and Higham Schools, especially at the last-named, where the offensive and insanitary pail system is in use. With respect to diseases of School life, the main ones calling for

attention have been skin diseases—Porrigo, Ring-worm and Scabies. All these are contagious, and any child suffering from any of them should be excluded from School. It is, in my opinion, shortsighted policy to compel such children to attend school, as their attendance means a spreading of the diseases, and their exclusion would mean an ultimate rise in the attendance.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—There are ten Factories and Workshops in the district. About twenty Inspections have been made and no Nuisances found, with the exception of one work-place without a Closet, referred by H.M. Inspector to the District Council and dealt with by them.

Dwellings.—Thirty houses have been built during the year—one-third with four rooms each, and two-thirds with living room and scullery, all with not less than two, and some with three bedrooms. In some of the houses the kitchen is much too small, and the seldom-used sitting-room too large. It would be both a convenience and a sanitary improvement if Water Closets and Baths were fitted up in the new property. There is still a number of houses where much dampness exists, but several have been improved, and it is hoped to bring the others into line in the near future. Cases of overcrowding have been dealt with as they came under notice.

Nuisances.—The number of Nuisances at the close of 1907 was 7, reported during 1908 28, and abated during the year 30, leaving 5 in hand. The Closet accommodation in several cases is deficient, one Closet having to serve in different instances 14 to 16 individuals. In one case 19 persons had to use one Closet Considerable work has been done in repairing defective and insanitary conveniences. Much still remains to be done, especially with regard to the open ashpits.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. MILLAR

(Medical Officer of Health).

Darton,
8th March, 1909.